

House File 2245 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2245

BY ANDERSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to establish an Iowa center for suicide prevention in
2 the department of education and to require school employee
3 training and protocols relating to suicide prevention and
4 trauma-informed care and making an appropriation.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, Code 2014, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 33. By July 1, 2015, adopt rules to require
4 school districts to provide regular, evidence-based training
5 on suicide prevention and trauma-informed care to all school
6 personnel who hold a license, certificate, authorization, or
7 statement of recognition issued by the board of educational
8 examiners and who provide a service to students as part of the
9 general accreditation standards applicable to school districts
10 pursuant to section 256.11. The content of the training
11 shall be determined by the Iowa center for suicide prevention
12 established in section 256.34.

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 34. By July 1, 2015, adopt rules to require
14 school districts to adopt protocols for suicide prevention
15 and postvention, as developed by the Iowa center for suicide
16 prevention established in section 256.34.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **256.34 Iowa center for suicide**
18 **prevention.**

19 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
20 otherwise requires:

21 *a. "Postvention"* means the provision of crisis intervention,
22 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or
23 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.

24 *b. "Trauma-informed care"* means services that are based
25 on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and triggers of
26 individuals who have experienced trauma, recognize the role
27 trauma has played in the lives of those individuals, recognize
28 the presence of trauma symptoms and their onset, are supportive
29 of trauma recovery, and avoid further traumatization.

30 2. The Iowa center for suicide prevention is established in
31 the department to provide, in a coordinated and comprehensive
32 way, ongoing support to Iowa's schools relating to suicide
33 prevention and trauma-informed care, in the form of
34 information, resources, and evidence-based training content.
35 It shall be the goal of the center that every student,

1 regardless of where they reside in the state, have access
2 to the same high-quality suicide prevention, intervention,
3 and support resources. The department may employ personnel
4 necessary to carry out the duties of the center.

5 3. The center shall have the initial responsibility of
6 supporting schools with implementation of suicide prevention
7 programs and development of trauma-informed learning
8 environments, including but not limited to the following:

9 a. Through collaboration with suicide prevention
10 coordinators and initiatives across state departments, the
11 center shall lead a public-private coalition of state and
12 local agencies, community groups, organizations including area
13 education agencies, and individuals with the goal of supporting
14 statewide suicide prevention, awareness, and intervention, and
15 providing necessary resources for such efforts.

16 b. The center shall develop evidence-based suicide
17 prevention and trauma-informed care training for school
18 personnel, which training accounts for best practices and
19 up-to-date research in these fields, to be provided pursuant
20 to section 256.7, subsection 33. The center shall provide
21 guidance and support to schools providing such training.

22 c. The center shall develop evidence-based model protocols
23 to assist schools in suicide prevention and postvention, to be
24 adopted pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 34.

25 d. The center shall develop a tiered training protocol for
26 school personnel consisting of the following three tiers:

27 (1) Universal training to be provided to all school
28 personnel.

29 (2) Targeted training to be provided to school personnel
30 for whom a greater degree of knowledge and skill relating to
31 suicide prevention is appropriate, such as school nurses,
32 counselors, and administrators.

33 (3) Intensive training to be provided to up to two personnel
34 in each school who will guide the school's suicide prevention
35 efforts and provide support to the rest of the school's

1 personnel.

2 e. The center shall develop recommendations for
3 social-emotional learning programs and supports for schools.

4 *f.* The center shall encourage content developed by the
5 center to be included in preservice teacher training.

6 4. The long-term responsibilities of the center shall
7 include the following:

8 a. Coordinating a comprehensive community effort of suicide
9 prevention to identify and develop supports for students at
10 risk of suicide.

11 *b.* Developing, reviewing, and improving evidence-based
12 training on suicide prevention and trauma-informed care on an
13 ongoing basis.

14 c. Identifying unmet needs in school and community
15 social-emotional learning supports.

16 *d.* Supporting efforts by schools to provide suicide
17 prevention and trauma-informed care for students.

18 e. Through community involvement, identifying resources
19 outside of a school setting for students identified as at risk
20 for suicide.

21 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
22 general fund of the state to the department of education for
23 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30,
24 2015, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
25 to be used for the purposes designated:

26 For the establishment and administration of the Iowa
27 center for suicide prevention, including salaries, support,
28 maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes:

29 \$ 500,000

30	EXPLANATION
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31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill establishes the Iowa center for suicide prevention
34 in the department of education to provide, in a coordinated and
35 comprehensive way, ongoing support to Iowa's schools relating

1 to suicide prevention and trauma-informed care, in the form of
2 information, resources, and evidence-based training content.
3 The goal of the center is that every student, regardless
4 of where they reside in the state, have access to the same
5 high-quality suicide prevention, intervention, and support
6 resources. The department may employ personnel necessary to
7 carry out the duties of the center.

8 The bill provides that the center has the initial
9 responsibility of supporting schools with implementation of
10 suicide prevention programs and development of trauma-informed
11 learning environments, including development of evidence-based
12 suicide prevention and trauma-informed care training for school
13 personnel and evidence-based model protocols to assist schools
14 in suicide prevention and postvention. The bill also provides
15 long-term responsibilities of the center, including developing,
16 reviewing, and improving evidence-based training on suicide
17 prevention and trauma-informed care on an ongoing basis and
18 supporting efforts by schools to provide suicide prevention and
19 trauma-informed care for students.

20 The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund of
21 the state to the department for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
22 establishment and administration of the center.

23 The bill requires the department to adopt rules by
24 July 1, 2015, to require school districts to provide
25 regular, evidence-based training on suicide prevention
26 and trauma-informed care to all school personnel who hold
27 a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of
28 recognition issued by the board of educational examiners and
29 who provide a service to students as part of the general
30 accreditation standards applicable to school districts. The
31 content of the training shall be determined by the center.
32 The bill also requires the department to adopt rules by July
33 1, 2015, to require school districts to adopt protocols for
34 suicide prevention and postvention as developed by the center.

35 The bill defines "trauma-informed care" as services that are

1 based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and triggers
2 of individuals who have experienced trauma, recognize the role
3 trauma has played in the lives of those individuals, recognize
4 the presence of trauma symptoms and their onset, are supportive
5 of trauma recovery, and avoid further traumatization. The bill
6 defines "postvention" as the provision of crisis intervention,
7 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or
8 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.